

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-01 /073 W

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R 190455Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8790

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, BG, PRC, PFOR

SUBJ: BANGLADESH TRADE DELEGATION TO CHINA

1. A FOUR-MAN TRADE DELEGATION LEFT DACCA NOVEMBER 11 FOR CANTON TO SELL JUTE, RAW AND MANUFACTURED, AND WOOD PULP AND NEWSPRINT, AND TO BUY COAL, COKE AND SELECTED GOODS. THE DELEGATION WAS TO HAVE ATTENDED THE CANTON FAIR, BUT WAS DELAYED THE THE POLITICAL CHANGES IN BANGLADESH.

2. MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION ARE M.S.H. CHISTY, CHAIRMAN, BANGLADESH JUTE INDUSTRIES CORPORATION; M. AYUBUR RAHMAN, CHAIRMAN, PAPER, AND BOARD CORPORATION; LUTFUR RAHMAN, A RAW JUTE EXPORTER; AND A PRIVATE BUSINESS/IMPORTER.

3. ACCORDING TO FOREIGN SECRETARY NURUL ISLAM, M.S.H. CHISTY AND LUTFUR RAHMAN HOPE TO SELL BOTH RAW JUTE AND JUTE GOODS TO CHINA. TO DATE, BANGLADESH HAS SOLD ONLY 4,000 TONS OF RAW JUTE TO CHINA, A SALE ARRANGED WHEN THE FIRST SUCH BANGLADESH TRADE GROUP VISITED CHINA LAST SRING. TOTAL BANGLADESH EXPORTS OF BOTH RAW JUTE AND JUTE MANUFACTURED ARE LAGGING THIS YEAR.

4. NEWSPRINT SALES HAVE ALSO BEEN DISAPPOINTINGLY BEHIND DOMESTIC

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PRODUCTION SINCE MOST SALES TO INDIA UNDER THE NOW DISCONTINUED

BARTER ARRANGEMENT CEASED A YEAR AGO. THE 19,000 TONS IN STOCK AT THE KHULNA NEWSPRINT MILLS (ORIGINALLY BUILT IN 1960 FOR THE WEST PAKISTAN MARKET) EQUAL SIX MONTHS' PRODUCTION. A RECENT DELEGATION TO INDIA SUCCEEDED IN SELLING ONLY 5,000 TONS. DOMESTIC SALES SUFFERED WHEN THE MUJIB GOVERNMENT ENDED PRESSFREEDOM. ALSO THE NEW SHLHET PULP

AND PAPER MILL IS CAPABLE OF PRODUCING 15,000 TONS OF WOODPULP FOR EXPORT AND AYUBUR RAHMAN DOUBTLESS HOPES TO SELL SOME OF THIS TO CHINA.

5. COMMENT. THE FIRST SUCH DELEGATION, WHICH WENT LAST SPRING, PLAYED SOMETHING OF POLITICAL AS WELL AS A COMMERCIAL ROLE, AND THE RESULTS OF THIS MISSION MAY SHED LIGHT ON THE DEVELOPING PRC/BANGLADESH RELATIONSHIP.
CHSLAW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JUTE, TRADE VISITS, TRADE FAIRS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DACCA05696
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750402-0621
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751130/aaaaazvo.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANGLADESH TRADE DELEGATION TO CHINA
TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, BG, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006